

WASHINGTON

SUMMARY OF FY 1997 ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) has identified two environmental goals to govern activities in FY 1997. These priorities follow.

- ◆ **Reduce risks to human health and protect Washington's land, air and water.** Ecology plans to make pollution prevention a top priority, use appropriate tools to help the regulated public meet environmental requirements, and uphold environmental standards. Ecology will monitor land, air, and water to measure environmental status, trends, and results. It will educate and involve citizens to achieve environmental goals, and ensure public access to environmental information. Finally, Ecology will use a common sense approach to cleaning up contaminated areas.
- ◆ **Work for environmental solutions which respect local values and contribute to economic vitality.** Ecology will work cooperatively with communities through local action teams to develop and carry out programs that meet local economic and environmental needs. It will creatively integrate land laws to make it easier for communities to protect the environment. It will use market forces to encourage people to go beyond compliance to stewardship, and will invest in programs that support the environment and help communities prosper.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES FOR ACHIEVING KEY GOALS

The tables below contain specific objectives established by the Washington State Department of Ecology to achieve its goals.

Air Quality	
Key Goals	Objectives
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attain air quality standards in airsheds that violate Federal and/or State air quality standards.• Maintain air quality in airsheds which meet Federal and/or State air quality standards.• Prevent unacceptable degradation of air quality in order to protect public health and welfare.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Areas that do not currently meet National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) have been redesignated to attainment by the year 2000.• Address existing and anticipated problems associated with violations of current and future NAAQS by June 30, 1997.• Address existing and anticipated problems associated with toxic air pollutants by June 30, 1997.• Regulated community achieves and maintains a higher rate of compliance with air quality requirements by June 30, 1997.

Hazardous Waste

Key Goals	Objectives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to improve the Dangerous Waste Regulations. • Facilitate self implementation of pollution prevention and safe waste management. • Assist in building pollution prevention skills within Ecology. • Accomplish safe, timely permitting, closure and corrective action. • Address environmental threats through effective response including fair and firm enforcement. • Improve access, internally and externally, to meaningful, quality information for use in accomplishing our work including collecting information to measure our success. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct statutory mandated and state priority inspections. • Address violations and compliance issues in a manner consistent with Ecology Dangerous Waste enforcement guidance. Input data into RCRIS and quality assure monthly. • Develop and implement an improved process for measuring compliance rates of hazardous waste handlers. Continue reporting return to compliance in RCRIS. • Conduct technical assistance for compliance and pollution prevention through site visits, answering phone calls, outreach publications, and workshops. • Invest the designated level of effort in making progress on completing closure of regulated units and conducting corrective action at Solid Waste Management Units (SWMUs). • Invest the designated level of effort in issuing hazardous waste permits. • Collect and process annual reports. Provide information to EPA for the National Biennial Report Systems as agreed in the program Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). • Maintain authorized program in compliance with federal requirements found at 40 C.F.R. Part 271.21.

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Water Quality	
Key Goal	Objectives
Interagency partnership, cooperation, and coordination.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate coordination and involvement by other federal agencies, tribes, and local governments in water quality management. • Increase partnership, cooperation, and coordination between EPA and Ecology using the Performance Partnership Agreement. • Facilitate effective state, tribal, and local leadership on aquatic ecosystem protection through scientific, technical, and financial assistance cooperation. • Improve communication between EPA and Ecology.
Watershed management.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate, coordinate, and focus base program delivery. • Special geographic focus actions (Puget Sound, Columbia River, and Lower Columbia River National Estuary Programs). • Jointly develop water-related environmental indicators for Washington State. Evaluate the needs and opportunities for statewide and watershed indicators.
Aquatic biodiversity protection and restoration.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve protection and restoration of threatened and endangered species through EPA and Ecology watershed partnerships. • Facilitate and support state salmonid protection and restoration efforts through interagency coordination of state, federal, tribal and local governments as well as through the watershed protection approach. • Facilitate and support ecosystems protection efforts.

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Water Quality	
Key Goal	Objectives
Streamlining program services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Revise systems and procedures to improve environmental results, inspire public confidence, reduce time and costs, increase flexibility, and maintain accountability.• Increase the flexibility and effectiveness of grants to support watershed management and the implementation of the PPA.• Involve other agencies with shared responsibilities to participate in PPA related activities where such opportunities are mutually identified by EPA and Ecology.